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Practical Field Geology. By J. H. Farrell. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1912. Pp. 273+xi; figs. 66; tables 4. $2.50.

The title of this handbook is in a sense misleading. Instead of being an exposition of approved methods with practical pointers and helpful short cuts for the use of the general geologist in the field, the word practical is here construed as synonymous with mining, and the book is avowedly limited to a treatment of the field methods employed by mining geologists, engineers, and prospectors. Within the field of mining its scope is further limited by the omission of coal and iron from consideration. And in value coal and iron are the greatest of our mining products.

But within its own chosen field the book can be recommended as a useful guide. In the first five chapters the methods of topographic mapping and some of the simpler phases and problems of geologic mapping are well described and presented so as to be available for use by those who have not had the advantages of elaborate training along geological lines. Then come very readable and instructive chapters on the interpretation of geologic data, general suggestions for geologic work, geological measurements, application of descriptive geometry to mining problems, application of geological theory, rock classification, geological prospecting, and prospecting by drilling. These discussions should be of value to those entering the field of economic geology without specialized training in that line.

Following the main part of the book is a guide to the "sight recognition" of 120 common or important minerals, by A. J. Moses.

R. T. C.

The Coal Fields of King County. By George Watkins Evans. Bull. No. 3, Washington Geol. Surv. Pp. 247; figs. 59; pls. 23. Olympia, 1912.

Washington is the only state on the Pacific coast which produces coal in any quantity and most of this comes from the region between Puget Sound and the main range of the Cascades, principally from King and Pierce counties. The coal beds of these two counties belong to the Puget formation whose age has been determined as Eocene. In character this coal ranges from lignitic bituminous in the less disturbed western part of King County to a bituminous coal in the eastern portion where crustal movements and igneous activity have been more severe. It is a coal that is suited to a great many purposes, though it is not the equal of some of the high-grade eastern coals, or some of the coal from the Alaskan fields. The careful studies which have been devoted to the geological and commercial problems connected with the King County coal fields are well set forth in this bulletin.

R. T. C.

Geology and Ore-Deposits of the Nizina District, Alaska. By FRED W. MOFFIT and STEPHEN R. CAPPS. Bull. 448, U.S. Geol. Survey. Pp. 108; pls. 12; figs. 11. Washington, D.C., 1912.

The Nizina district is located about eighty miles north of Behring glacier between parallels 61° 12′ and 61° 37′ north latitude and meridians 142° 22′ and 143° west longitude, and embraces about three hundred square miles. The sedimentary rocks are Triassic and Jurassic with some Quaternary deposits and rest upon greenstone of probable Triassic age. Deformation and erosion followed Triassic sedimentation with exposure of the underlying greenstone, after which Jurassic sediments accumulated to a thickness of 7,000 feet. Younger rocks may possibly have been present but if so have been removed. The Jurassic rocks are deformed and cut by great quantities of quartz diorite porphyry in the form of sills and dikes. All the rocks are faulted. Most of the Quaternary deposits are related to glaciation.

Gold is the only metal at present produced on a commercial basis but the copper will be important when means of transporting it to the coast are developed. The gold is in the form of placers some of which are related to glacial deposits though others are not. The copper occurs as chalcocite and bornite with small amounts of native metal in the amygdaloidal form. The origin of the copper deposits is discussed briefly, with full recognition of the speculative nature of the chemical reactions.

E. A. S.

The Late Glacial and Post-glacial Uplift of the Michigan Basins. Earthquakes in Michigan. By WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS. Mich. Geol. and Biol. Surv. Pub. 5, Geol. Series 3. Pp. 87; pls. 4; figs. 53.

This is a bulletin which is largely intended to present a phase of geology in a popular way. The author has preceded his discussion of the uplift by a series of notes and drawings of various features that are useful in interpreting the history of the basins. These include illustrations of present sinking and rising shore lines, sea cliffs, wave-built terraces,